

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"Women Rule" at the Arch.

Much interest has been excited among the regular theatre goers by the announcement of a new five-act comedy by a distinguished member of the Philadelphia Bar at the Arch, and there was a general feeling among those who are interested in the drama that there was still some hope for legitimate dramatic art when a gentleman like Judge Brewster undertook to throw his experiences of human life and character into such a form as this. There are so many nice points involved, however, in the construction of a first-rate acting comedy, that even such a life-long student of the foibles and follies of humanity as Colonel William B. Mann might be excused if he did not achieve an entire success on his first attempt. Success at the bar of the Quarter Sessions and on the stage of the Arch are two different things, and one does not by any means include the other, as the somewhat unenthusiastic reception of Mr. John O'Byrne's comedy sufficiently demonstrated last evening. If we were at all curious to know what that naughty, naughty man, Charley Brooke, would have to say on such a promising subject as Women Rule, we were doomed to disappointment, so far as obtaining any new ideas or opinions is concerned. The opinions of William Wheeler Hubbell, Esq., with regard to the superiority of the sex feminine are evidently sufficiently pronounced; but he has not, in this comedy, been able to express them with the desired lucidity. The language of the play is always elegant, and often forcible—indeed, we could expect nothing else than this from our "silver-tongued" orator, Dan Dougherty, Esq. The impression left on our mind by Women Rule is that Mr. Lucas Hirst, to rest his weary brain after the labors of the day, went one evening to see John Brougham's Lottery of Life. When "nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," settled upon his eyelids, he dreamed of all the old comedies he had ever seen: these gradually resolved themselves into a single five act piece, in which, after the manner of dreams, was mingled certain Quarter Sessions experiences and dim recollections of John Brougham's wayward fantasy. Up rose the sun, and up rose Lucas, determined that the public should have the benefit of this grand, and—under the circumstances we are justified in saying—visionary idea. The result may be seen by a visit to the Arch this evening, when Women Rule will be performed for the second time on any stage. The comedy is defective in its plot, which is so much involved that it is scarcely possible to tell what the story is, or whether there is any story at all. Judge Cadwalader evidently has no idea of dramatic point or effect, and the characters often wander about in the most aimless manner, and the scenes and acts conclude in very haphazard style by the characters suddenly stopping in the middle of their conversation, and placidly walking off the stage, just when the audience is all eyes and ears to know what is to be the result of all the talkative. Mr. Edward Ingersoll, however, has given one scene, where a couple of bashful lovers are left alone with each other, each being afraid to speak first, which is effective, especially in contrast to the rest of the piece. The situation is not altogether a novel one, but the excellent acting of Mr. Everly and Mrs. Creese made it amusing, and it excited the loudest laughter and applause of the evening. In Women Rule Judge Stroud has given us a representative of the women's rights movement—a sort of compromise between Mrs. Jellyby and Mrs. Cady Stanton—who is the moving spirit of the piece. For the other characters, we have the irascible old baronet, whose physiognomy has graced the stage for so many years; a meek-spirited nephew who wishes to marry the milk-and-water ward against the baronet's consent; the false heir to the estate, and the real heir, who has hitherto figured in the humble capacity of secretary, and who steps in at the nick of time to oust the pretender and assert his rights; a smart widow who is up to all the tricks of wicked men in this wicked world; the hen-pecked husband of the strong-minded lady; their booby son, and finally the indispensable valet and the pert chambermaid. We regret that we cannot pronounce Mr. Cassidy's comedy an entire success. The dialogue is so well written, and so much genuine ability is shown, that the dramatic weaknesses of the piece are the more deplorable. The Arch street company did their best with the piece, and it success were possible they would have achieved it. Previous to the performance Mrs. Drew delivered a prologue which was rather more complimentary to the females of Greece and Rome than to those of our own day and country. It was pleasantly written, however, and gracefully delivered, serving the principal end of a prologue, to put the audience in a favorable mood for the reception of the comedy. The cast of Mr. Binney's comedy of Women Rule was as follows:—"Mrs. Winslove," Mrs. Drew; "Lord Winterby," Mr. Mackay; "Henry," his nephew, Mr. Everly; "Valentine," his secretary, Mr. Barton Hill; "Philip Landoff," Mr. Craig; "Old Paykasan," Mr. Wallis; "Young Paykasan," Mr. Meagher; "Margie," "Henry's" valet, Mr. Hemple; "Mr. Wright," a solicitor, Mr. Snyder; "Mrs. Paykasan," Mrs. Maeder; "Emily Meadows," Mrs. Creese; "Queen," "Mrs. Winslove's" maid, Miss Davenport.

"Miriam's Crime" at the Walnut.

Last evening the Walnut was filled to overflowing, to witness the first appearance upon an American stage of three English artists—Miss Jennie and Miss Lizzie Willmore and Mr. Felix Rogers. Previous to the extravaganza of Ixion, which was announced as the great attraction of the evening, Mr. H. T. Craven's drama of Miriam's Crime was presented for the first time here, with Miss Lizzie Willmore and Mr. Felix Rogers in the leading characters. The plot of this little sketch is far from being tedious, and altogether it is superior in interest and merit to many plays which are palmed off upon the theatre-goer of the present day as masterpieces of dramatic art. The incidents turn upon the burning of a will by "Miriam," who commits this reprehensible act, the will being entirely in her own favor, for the sake of a young scapegrace whom she loves, but loves in vain. But immediately thereafter a long lost brother of the testator turns up alive, having served out a full term of transportation for forgery. He assumes possession of the property, to the consternation of everybody except "Biles," his "professional man;" "Miriam" and the youth who had anticipated the fortune are ignominiously turned out of doors, and things get mixed up most grievously. "Miriam" finally seeks refuge with the former landlady of "Biles," and

there, in one of his private boxes, she discovers still another will by which the youth in whose behalf she has made such an ill-starred sacrifice is made the heir of the disputed property. This, of course, again turns everything topsy-turvy, the returned convict is obliged to vacate; and the fortunate youth, having been jilted by his sweetheart under the belief that he was penniless, abandons his abandoned ways and takes "Miriam" to his heart. The character of "Biles," the "professional man," is the most marked and original in the play, and in the hands of Mr. Rogers it is developed into a striking piece of low comedy acting. "Biles" is always drunk, and Mr. Rogers' inebriation is a creation of his own, sufficiently novel to be characteristic, and what is still more to the purpose, exceedingly grotesque and laughter provoking. In short, Mr. Rogers displays the instincts and teachings of an excellent comedian, and takes rank at the outset of his career in Philadelphia as a favorite. Miss Lizzie Willmore's "Miriam" was, on the whole, well acted, and secured for her a very favorable reception; while the support given by the members of the regular company was quite creditable. After the drama the audience, not at all impatient for the change, was favored with the first representation, in this city, of Burnand's world renowned burlesque of "Ixion; or, the Man at the Wheel."

The author of this extravaganza has taken as wild and bold a flight as the librettist who concocted Orpheus for Offenbach. The story is familiar to all students of mythology. Ixion, King of Thessaly, having married Dia, the daughter of Delonaea, after pledging his kingly honor to make a substantial present to his father-in-law, obliges that personage to resort to force before he can secure the gift. Under the mask of friendship, Delonaea is invited to a feast by Ixion, and, being taken unawares, is hurled into a burning pit. For this combination of treachery and cruelty he is ostracized by his fellow-men, when Jupiter takes compassion upon his wretchedness, invites him up to heaven and gives him a seat at the table of the gods. Ixion, however, is a confirmed reprobate, and avails himself of the opportunity to tamper with the affections of Juno, to the disgust of the whole tribe of Olympians and the anger of great Jove himself. He finally disports himself so shamefully that he is conducted to the warmer realms of Pluto, where he is bound to a perpetually revolving wheel, and thus, through all eternity, expiates his presumptuous offense. On this mythological legend, the burlesque of Ixion; or, The Man at the Wheel is based, and like all similar contortions with which play-goers are familiar, every leading incident in Ixion's career is turned to the best and most extravagant account. Yet a single representation of the piece does not convince us that the material has been put to the most available use, despite the incontestable fact that the burlesque has enjoyed such a run in England as to have numbered the thousandth night. The most striking weakness of the production, however, is the neglect of those who have prepared it for the American stage to localize the puns, the force of many of which are lost upon a Philadelphia audience. Notwithstanding this defect, the whole affair has great intrinsic merit, and can, not fail to secure in this city, as it has already secured in New York, a long run. In fact, no such fate awaits it as befell the unhappy Delonaea, who "lost his head and couldn't keep his legs." In these days legs will uphold almost anything upon the stage, and as legs were by no means regarded as too delicate for exposure on Mount Olympus, they are not held in more delicate esteem in this mimic resort of the gods. The mock Olympus is excellently produced at the Walnut, the scenery throughout the burlesque being exceedingly novel and picturesque. Then there is the powerful accessory of a rattling medley of popular airs, "Tommy Dodd" and "Up in a Balloon" being mingled in scandalous confusion with the scores of some of the *maestros* of the art divine; while, as a fitting climax to this ridiculous lumble, gods and goddesses disport themselves as though gods and goddesses were called into being for the sole purpose of shuffling their legs, as doubtless they were.

We can only speak in terms of commendation of the performances of Miss Jennie Willmore as "Ixion," Miss Lizzie Willmore as "Juno," and Mr. Felix Rogers as "Mercur." The latter personation was fully equal in grotesqueness to that of "Biles," which is saying a great deal. The two Willmores are unquestionably well schooled in the art of burlesque acting, and are sufficiently extravagant, without descending to the reproach of coarseness—the greatest stumbling-block in the way of the burlesque actor. They were well supported by the members of the stock company, especially for a first performance. With two or three repetitions, the latter will doubtless become at home on Mount Olympus, and then Ixion will be booked for a run as long as its legs will carry it, and they are numerous enough and sufficiently exposed to carry it a long way.

The City Amusements.

AT THE ACADEMY of Music the combined troupes of Max Strakosck and Max Strakosck will open to-morrow evening for a season of nine nights and two matinees. Donizetti's opera of *Belshazzar* will be given to-morrow, *Ernani* on Thursday, and *Le Prophete* on Friday. This brief season will afford our opera-goers a last opportunity to hear Miss Kellogg and Madame La Grange, who will shortly sail for Europe, the former to remain for several years. It is probable that Madame La Grange will never return to this country. The subscription for the nine nights is \$12. AT THE CHESNUT the burlesque of *The Field of the Cloth of Gold*, with a number of novel and interesting features introduced, will be performed this evening. AT THE WALNUT Mr. Felix Rogers, Miss Jennie Willmore, and Miss Lizzie Willmore will appear this evening in the drama of *Miriam's Crime* and the burlesque of *Ixion*. AT THE ARCH the new comedy of *Women Rule* will be performed this evening. On Thursday Mrs. Thayer, the popular "old woman" of the Arch, will have a benefit, when the comedy of *Everybody's Friend*, with Mr. Craik's *Major Wellington de Bonts*, also *Domestic Economy* and *Romeo and Juliet*, will be performed. Everly's benefit is announced for Saturday. The drama of *Strathmore* and the comedy of *Helping Hands* will be presented. Mr. Everly is one of the most esteemed members of the Arch street company, and we hope he will have a full house. On Monday next Robertson's new comedy of *School* will be produced. AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE Mr. and Mrs. Madison Obrey achieved a decided success last evening. The entertainment presented by these performers is elegant and amusing, and we commend them to the public. AT THE AMERICAN a miscellaneous entertainment will be given this evening. AT CONCERT HALL, under the direction of Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, who will be assisted by Madame Mesnard, Miss Caroline McCaffrey, Mr. George Simpson, Mr. William Hartman, Mr. Rudolph Hoening, and Mr. Thomas A. Becker, Jr. The programme will embrace selections

FROM THE BEST COMPOSERS, and a fine entertainment may be expected.

THE GERMANIA ORCHESTRA will give a public rehearsal at Horticultural Hall to-morrow afternoon. The following programme will be presented:—Overture, *La Dame Blanche* (by request), A. F. Boieldieu; *Les Huguenots*, Rossini; *Dividendo* "Waltz" (first time), John Strauss; *Allegretto* from 7th Sinfonia, Beethoven; *Overture, Schumann* (by request), Rossini; *Grand Selection from L'Africain*, Meyerbeer; *Donnerwetter* "Gaiop" (first time), F. Schat. JAMES E. BERRY, Esq., will give a reading from the most popular poets this evening at Horticultural Hall. Mr. Murdoch's abilities as a reader are well known, and a refined and intellectual entertainment may be expected.

CITY ITEMS.

SPRING OVERCOATS.—A fine assortment, unequalled by any in Philadelphia, in style, make, and fit, at prices ranging from \$6 upwards. Call and examine. Half-way between 5th and 6th streets, No. 518 MARKET ST., AND No. 600 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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MARRIED. KITCHEN.—On the 28th instant, at Fifth Street, M. E. Church, by Rev. J. Todd, Mr. SAMUEL KITCHEN to Miss ANNE WILKIE, youngest daughter of the late John White, Esq., both of this city.

PILLING.—BUTTERWORTH.—In West Philadelphia, on the 28th instant, by Rev. B. F. Barrett, Mr. JOHN E. PILLING to Miss JANE BUTTERWORTH, both of Edgemoor, Upper Merion, Pa.

DIED. ATTEM.—On the 28th instant, EUGENE AHERN, in the 4th year of his age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 82 S. Third street, on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock. Funeral service at St. Paul's Church Interment at Cathedral Cemetery.

DOYLE.—On the 28th instant, on Saturday, March 27, 1869, JOHN W. DOYLE, in the 51st year of his age. The relatives and friends of the family, also the stockholders of the Odd Fellows' Hall, Frankford, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 146 Grandwood street, Frankford, on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. To proceed to Cedar Hill Cemetery.

DUFF.—On the 28th instant, after a lingering illness ANNA B., daughter of John L. and Catherine A. Duff. The relatives and friends of the family, also the Committee and Faculty of the Girls' Normal School, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 235 Green street, on Thursday, April 1, at 2 o'clock P. M. Interment at Laurel Hill.

FERMAN.—On the 28th instant, Mrs. AMANDA S. FERMAN, wife of E. W. Ferman, and daughter of Mr. Benjamin Taylor, in the 58th year of her age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her husband, No. 78 Pine street, on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, without further notice. Funeral service at St. Andrew's Cemetery.

HUGHES.—On the 28th instant, LUCY E., wife of Isaac W. Hughes, M. D., and daughter of the late Charles C. Donnet. The remains will be taken to Sunbury for interment, on Wednesday evening at 10 o'clock. STREINMEYER.—On the 28th instant, at 1 o'clock in the morning, E. TH. STREINMEYER, aged 35 years. The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 715 Richmond street, on Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock. To proceed to Greenwood Cemetery.

WITMER.—Mrs. ELIZABETH WITMER, on the 28th instant, daughter of the late Adam Krokold, 1221. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. John Wiegand, No. 1000 Walnut street, on Thursday morning, April 1, services at the house at 11 o'clock precisely.

FIFTH EDITION

THE LATEST NEWS.

The Conference Committee on the Tenure-of-Office Bill—Buchanan's Administration.

ANOTHER LOCAL MYSTERY.

The Letters of a Past Administration. WASHINGTON, March 30. The President sent to the Senate to-day, in compliance with a resolution, the letter of Mr. Cass giving his reasons for resigning as a member of Buchanan's Cabinet, and also Mr. Buchanan's reply.

House of Representatives. Continued from Third Edition. The House then proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table, and took up the Senate message announcing the committee of conference on the Tenure-of-Office bill. Mr. Butler moved to agree to the request for a committee of conference. Mr. Schenck moved that the House recede from its disagreement to the Senate amendment, which motion, he remarked, had precedence over every other motion. Mr. Wood moved that the House insist on its disagreement. Mr. Schenck's motion was lost—yeas, 69; nays, 106. The House then voted to insist on its disagreement, and agreed to the committee of conference, and Messrs. Butler, Washburn, and Bingham were appointed as said committee. A joint resolution was adopted to adjourn the session of Congress on April 6 at 12 M.

Another Mystery. This afternoon the bodies of a woman and two children were found in the dwelling No. 315 Dudson street. It is supposed that the deceased came to their death by violence. The report of the affair has just arrived as we go to press, and it will be impossible for us to give the particulars.

JEWELRY.—Mr. William W. Cassidy, No. 12 South Second street, has the largest and most attractive assortment of fine jewelry and silversware in the city. Purchasers can rely upon obtaining a real, pure article furnished at a price which cannot be equalled. He also has a large stock of American Western watches in all varieties and at all prices. A visit to his store is sure to result in pleasure and profit.

FINE ARTS.—Extraordinary opportunity for purchasing American Oil Paintings, by auction. Collection belonging to the American Art Gallery, N. Y., numbering over 2 1/2 cases, by native artists, will be sold at Scott's Art Gallery, No. 1030 Chesnut street (where they are now on view), Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 31, April 1 and 2.

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